

**VIRGINIA:**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA**

**IN RE: ALL PERSONS ENTERING  
ALEXANDRIA COURTHOUSE DURING  
THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

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**MISC. NO. MO21001429**

**MANDATORY FACE COVERING ORDER EFFECTIVE AUGUST 2, 2021**

In view of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the latest evidence on the Delta variant, the recent uptick in cases that Alexandria is experiencing which has resulted in Alexandria being added to the "substantial" community transmission list and in accordance with recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and in order to protect the health of all persons entering the courthouse, and in accordance with the direction of the Supreme Court of Virginia that the Courts of the Commonwealth take "reasonable steps to minimize the risk of the spread of COVID-19," the Court issues the following Order, **effective August 2, 2021:**

**ALL PERSONS ENTERING THE COURTHOUSE MUST WEAR A FACE COVERING THAT COVERS THE NOSE AND MOUTH.<sup>1</sup> THIS INCLUDES JUDGES, ATTORNEYS, DEPUTY SHERIFFS, COURT REPORTERS, EMPLOYEES, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, CONTRACTORS, AND ALL OTHERS WHO WORK IN OR VISIT THE COURTHOUSE. THE FACE COVERING MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES WITHIN THE COURTHOUSE, INCLUDING COURTROOMS, ELEVATORS,**

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<sup>1</sup> The face coverings need not be surgical masks or N-95 respirators, but may be cloth face coverings fashioned from household items (such as cotton scarves) or made at home from common materials. They should fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face, be secured with ties or ear loops, include multiple layers of fabric and allow for breathing without restriction. See <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

**STAIRWELLS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CORRIDORS AND ANY OTHER SHARED SPACES. EMPLOYEES MAY REMOVE THEIR FACE MASK IN THEIR WORK AREA IF THEY ARE ABLE TO MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING FROM OTHER INDIVIDUALS. WITHIN A COURTROOM, THE PRESIDING JUDGE MAY AUTHORIZE REMOVAL OF A FACE COVERING IN ORDER TO FACILITATE A PROCEEDING AS LONG AS SOCIAL DISTANCING CAN BE MAINTAINED. INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT FACE COVERINGS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO ENTER THE COURTHOUSE AND INDIVIDUALS WHO DO NOT CONTINUOUSLY WEAR THEIR FACE COVERING WHILE IN THE COURTHOUSE AS REQUIRED BY THIS ORDER WILL BE SUBJECT TO REMOVAL FROM THE COURTHOUSE.**

As recommended by the Virginia Department of Health, this Order does not apply to children under age two, or individuals who have difficulty breathing, or who cannot remove a face covering without help, or have other medical issues that make the wearing of a face covering unsafe.

This Order shall remain in effect until further Order of the Court.

ENTERED THIS 30<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JULY, 2021.

  
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Chief Judge, Lisa B. Kemler